Rise in Inflation

462. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inflation has been consistently rising higher and higher, having crossed 6.25% by mid September;

(b) if so, the rise in inflation registered week to week since presentation of Budget 1996-97;

(c) the corresponding rise in the wholesale and consumer price indices; and

(d) to what specific items or class of items such rise is attributable?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The current financial year started with an inflation rate of 4.8 per cent and remained around this level through the first quarter April-June, 1996. Since July it exhibited an uptrend and touched 6.25% by mid September. Week to week annual inflation since the presentation of the Budget 1996-97 is listed below:

Week ending	Annual inflation rate(%) measured in terms of Wholesale Price Index
27.7.96	6.3
3.8.96	6.0
10.8.96	6.1
17.8.96	6.2
24.8.96	6.2
31.8.96	6.3
7.9.96	6.4
14.9.96	6.3 (P)
21.9.96	6.5 (P)
28.9.96	6.3 (P)
5.10.96	6.5 (P)
12.10.96	6.7 (P)
19.10.96	6.5 (P)
26.10.96	6.6 (P)
3.11.96	6.5 (P)

P = Provisional

(c) Annual rise in Whole-sale Price Index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) in 1996-97 is shown below:

Annual Increase (%)

	WPI	CPI-IW
April	5.7	9.8
May	4.5	9.3
June	4.5	8.8
July	6.0	8.3
August	6.6	8.9
September	6.4	8.5
October	6.5	N.A.

(d) Inflation rate based on Whole-sale Price Index which had touched a low of 4.5 per cent in June 1996 began to show an uptrend from July following the average increase of about 18 per cent in the price of petroleum products. This uptraid was further reinforced subsequently by review in the prices of coal and sharp increase in price of dgrains namely wheat and rice.

गुजरात के पर्यटक स्थलों को रेल सेवा से जोड़ना

463. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गुजरात में सभी पर्यटक स्थलों और तीर्थ स्थानों को रेल सेवा से जोड़ दिया गया है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में क्या कदम उठाए जाने का विचार है;

(ग) राज्य में ऐसे पर्यटन स्थलों और तीर्थ स्थानों का ब्यौरा क्या है जहां अभी भी रेल सम्पर्क नहीं है और जिससे सरकार को तीर्थ यात्रियों से प्रतिवर्ष प्राप्त होने वाली आय का नुकसान हो रहा है;

(घ) क्या पर्यटन मंत्रालय ने इस संबंध में रेल मंत्रालय के साथ विचार-विमर्श किया है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो ऐसे स्थानों को रेल सेवा से जोड़ने के लिए क्या प्रयास किए गए हैं?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री श्रीकान्त जेना): (क) से (ङ) गुजरात राज्य में सभी प्रमुख पर्यटक/तीर्थ केन्द्रों क्या सोमनाथ, द्वारिका, पोरबन्दर, वेरावल, जूनागढ़, सासनगीर, चोरवाड़, पालिताना, डाकोर, अहमदाबाद, बड़ोदा, सूरत आदि रेल

सेवा से जुड़े हुए हैं। कुछ एक ऐसे केन्द्र भी हैं जहां पहुंचने के लिए रेल मार्ग नहीं है ऐसे वे केन्द्र नजदीकी प्रमुख रेलवे स्टेशनों से सड़क मार्ग द्वारा अच्छी प्रकार जुड़े हुए हैं।

पर्यटक और तीर्थ केन्द्रों को रेल द्वारा जोड़ना प्रमुखतः संसाधनों की उपलब्धता और पारस्परिक प्राथमिकता एवं राज्य सरकारों द्वारा किए गए विशेष अनुरोधों पर भी आधारित है।

Technical and Economic aid to various countries

464. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which Government have extended technical and economic aid;

(b) the details of the technical economic aid received by these countries from India during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(c) whether Government have taken steps to enhance grants to these countries during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

programmes which are suitable for family viewing. In order to ensure this, the films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification for universal screening only are telecast on Doordarshan.

The Central Board of Film Certification while certifying films, inter-alia, ensures that the medium of films remains responsible and sensitive to the values and standards of society without unduly curbing artistic expression and creative freedom.

Further, all the programmes and films telecast on Doordarshan are previewed before telecast by in-house committees of Doordarshan to ensure that they conform to the Broadcasting and Commercial Advertising Codes of Doordarshan.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) It is Doordarshan's constant endeavour to telecast programmes depicting Indian history, culture, traditions and social issues/values through programmes in various formats. Some of the programmes depicting these aspects telecast/being telecast by Doordarshan are Jhansi Ki Rani, Akbar the Great, Mahabharat, Surabhi, Hitopdesh (serial in Sanskrit), Karamati, Sabka Malik Ek Hai, etc.

Strike in AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospitals

465. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
SHRI O.P. KOHLI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that karamcharis in the Safdarjung Hospital and AIIMS have been on frequent strike affecting the working of these hospitals;

(b) if so, since when and the specific reasons for their going on strike;

(c) the effect of the strike on the health care of the patients;

(d) what action Government have taken so far to resolve the matters at dispute; and

(e) the number of times of doctors, nurses and karamcharis have gone on strike in these hospitals in the last three years and what steps have been taken to prevent frequent strikes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Strikes have taken place in Safdarjung Hospital and AIIMS by various group of employees, Doctors or students seeking redressal of their grievances or fulfilment of de-